

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 13866 290134Z
ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13866

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, GW, UK, FR
SUBJECT: UK/FRENCH/FRG DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING
ON PACKAGE PROPOSALS

1. DR. KARL SCHNELL, STATE SECRETARY IN THE DEFENSE
MINISTRY, HAS TOLD US THAT, WHEN THE UK, FRG AND FRENCH
DEFENSE MINISTERS HELD THEIR TRIPARTITE MEETING AT
DITCHLEY HOUSE, LONDON, ON JULY 12, THEIR DISCUSSION
OF THE US "PROGRAM PACKAGES" PROPOSAL WAS QUITE POSI-
TIVE. SCHNELL HAS PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING

EXCERPT FROM THE ACTION SHEET REPORTING THE RESULTS
OF THE MEETING:

BEGIN TEXT: "PACKAGE" PROPOSALS

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PAGE 02 BONN 13866 290134Z

15. MINISTERS WERE INFORMED OF THE JOINT EXAMINATION
WHICH WAS PROCEEDING OF US PROPOSALS FOR "PROGRAMME
PACKAGES" INVOLVING THE ALLOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK BETWEEN EUROPE ON
ONE SIDE AND NORTH AMERICA ON THE OTHER. THEY CON-
CLUDED THAT: -

A. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND NORTH AMERICA NOT ONLY MET ESSENTIAL MILITARY REQUIREMENTS BUT ALSO PRESERVED THE ESSENTIAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL INTERESTS OF THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE IEPG.

B. THE MAIN BURDEN OF THE EXAMINATION WOULD FALL IN

EUROPE UPON THE 3 COUNTRIES WHO SHOULD CONTINUE TO CONSULT TOGETHER; BUT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE IEPG SO THAT THEIR VIEWS AND INTEREST MIGHT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WOULD HAVE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS AND SHOULD BE KEPT INFORMED.

16. MINISTERS THEREFORE INSTRUCTED NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS: -

A. TO CONTINUE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US IN 4 AREAS (ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPONS, ANTI-SHIP MISSILES, AIR-TO-GROUND MUNITIONS AND AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES) ALREADY PROPOSED BY THE US, AND

B. TO EXPLORE THE SCOPE FOR OTHER PACKAGES WHICH WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE ALLIANCE AND THE EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL BASE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING CO-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 13866 290134Z

ORDINATED PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. THEY EMPHASISED THAT THIS EXAMINATION OF POSSIBLE PACKAGES SHOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE PROGRESS

OF EUROPEAN ACTIVITY IN RELEVANT AREAS. END TEXT.

2. SCHNELL CONSIDERED IT SIGNIFICANT AND ENCOURAGING THAT THE FRENCH WERE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 16., A AND B, ABOVE. MEEHAN

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